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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Nimrod Megiddo  
Application No. 09/533,325  
Filed: March 22, 2000  
Attorney Docket No. ARC000009US1-IBM

**NOTICE VACATING PATENT  
GRANT**

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that the above-identified application was mistakenly indicated to have been granted as U.S. Patent No. 6,985,868 on January 10, 2006.

The record discloses the following:

- A first Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due and a Notice of Allowability were mailed on August 24, 2005. The issue fee in reply to the Notice of Allowance was received on October 3, 2005.
- On December 7, 2005, a Notice Of Withdrawal From Issue Under 37 C.F.R. 1.313(b), by the Director of Technology Center 3600, was mailed to notify applicant that the above application was withdrawn from issue after payment of the issue fee to permit reopening of prosecution.
- On December 21, 2005, an Issue Notification was mailed to indicate a patent number of 6,985,868 and an issue date of January 10, 2006.
- On February 16, 2006, a paper entitled "Re: Notice Of Withdrawal From Issue, and Issuance," was filed.

In view of the Notice Of Withdrawal From Issue mailed December 7, 2005, the U.S.P.T.O's publication (on January 10, 2006) of a patent document purporting to be a patent was in error. Accordingly, the following erratum will be published in the Official Gazette:

All reference to Patent No. 6,985,868 to Nimrod Megiddo of California for  
SYSTEM, METHOD AND PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR AUTOMATICALLY  
MANAGING CONTRACTS appearing in the Official Gazette of January 10,  
2006 should be deleted since no patent was granted.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 3629 for appropriate action by the examiner.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Karen Creasy at (571) 272-3208.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles Pearson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Pearson, Director  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: Paul Harrison, MDW-4B03, (FAX-273-5468)  
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